

PATENT APPLICATION

Docket No.: 2685/5944

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of Berkley et al.
Group Art Unit: Not Known
Continuation of Application No.: 08/823,944 (Filed March 25, 1997)
Examiner: Not Known
Filed: March 5, 2002
For: ACTIVE USER REGISTRY

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER
FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendment. A red-line version of the amendment is attached hereto.

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 2 and prior to the section entitled "Background of the Invention", please insert the following:

--This application is a continuation of Application No. 08/823, 944 filed March 25, 1997, by the same inventive entity of the instant application, and claiming the benefit of filing-date priority thereof.--

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-101 and insert the following claims in place thereof:

102. An active user registry system responsive to a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user, comprising:

- a. a computer; and
- b. a database, linked to the computer, containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options;

wherein the system determines a communications address for contacting the user in accordance with a comparison between a communications option accompanying the request and the user's preferred communications options.

103. The system according to claim 102, wherein the user identifier includes information representing at least one of the user's identity, the user's title, the user's occupation or personal information corresponding to the user.

104. The system according to claim 102, wherein the plurality of communications addresses includes an address for contacting the user by telephone, an address for contacting the user by e-mail, an address for contacting the user by facsimile, and a current address for making direct communications contact with the user.

105. The system according to claim 104, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by videophone.

106. The system according to claim 104, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by voice messaging.

107. The system according to claim 104, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by real-time IP messaging.

108. The system according to claim 104, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes a URL-compatible address for linking to a Web page associated with the user.

109. The system according to claim 102, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes a communications option and at least one of the time of day, the day of the week, or information representing the identity of a person attempting to contact the user.

110. The system according to claim 102, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

111. The system according to claim 102, wherein the communications address for contacting the user determined by the system corresponds to a communications option having at least one communications property in common with the communications option accompanying the request and with the user's preferred communications options.

112. The system according to claim 102, wherein the system further initiates a communications contact to the user.

113. The system according to claim 112, wherein the communications contact to the user is initiated without providing the communications address to a subscriber making the request.

114. The system according to claim 102, wherein the system further receives a message to be delivered to the determined communications address.

115. The system according to claim 114, wherein the message to be delivered comprises at least one of a voice message or a text message.

116. The system according to claim 102, wherein the system further converts a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options.

117. The system according to claim 116, wherein the system further delivers the converted communication to the user.

118. The system according to claim 102, further comprising a voice interface for enabling interaction with, and control and management of, the system from any available voice-compatible communication interface.

119. The system according to claim 102, further comprising a cache coupled to the database for storing information, for a particular subscriber, corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database.

120. The system according to claim 119, wherein the information stored in the cache for a particular subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

121. The system according to claim 102, wherein the communications information for contacting the user is automatically updated in accordance with a change in a communications address for contacting the user.

122. The system according to claim 102, wherein the user may, subject to verification of the user's identity, update the communications information for contacting the user.

123. The system according to claim 102, wherein information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options is automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts with communication attempts from other persons.

124. The system according to claim 102, wherein the database further includes a message providing information about contacting the user.

125. The system according to claim 124, wherein the message providing information about contacting the user includes an audio message.

126. The system according to claim 124, wherein the database further includes a list identifying those persons entitled to access the message providing information about contacting the user.

127. The system according to claim 102, wherein the database further includes multimedia information corresponding to the user.

128. The system according to claim 127, multimedia information corresponding to the user includes a Web page.

129. The system according to claim 102, wherein the system is linked to at least one of a packet network and a telephone network.

130. The system according to claim 129, wherein the packet network comprises at least one of the Internet or an intranet.

131. The system according to claim 129, wherein the system is further linked to a Web site for accessing the system using a Web browser.

132. An active user registry system responsive to a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user, comprising:

- a. a computer; and
- b. a database, linked to the computer, containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications

addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options;
wherein information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options is automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts with communication attempts from other persons.

133. The system according to claim 132, wherein the user identifier includes information representing at least one of the user's identity, the user's title, the user's occupation or personal information corresponding to the user.

134. The system according to claim 132, wherein the plurality of communications addresses includes an address for contacting the user by telephone, an address for contacting the user by e-mail, an address for contacting the user by facsimile, and a current address for making direct communications contact with the user.

135. The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by videophone.

136. The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by voice messaging.

137. The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by real-time IP messaging.

138. The system according to claim 134, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes a URL-compatible address for linking to a Web page associated with the user.

139. The system according to claim 132, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes a communications option and at least one of the time of day, the day of the week, or information representing the identity of a person attempting to contact the user.

140. The system according to claim 132, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

141. The system according to claim 132, further comprising a voice interface for enabling interaction with, and control and management of, the system from any available voice-compatible communication interface.

142. The system according to claim 132, further comprising a cache coupled to the database for storing information, for a particular subscriber, corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database.

143. The system according to claim 142, wherein the information stored in the cache for a particular subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

144. An active user registry system responsive to a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user, comprising:

- a. a computer; and
- b. a database, linked to the computer, containing communications

information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options;

wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

145. A method of operating an active user registry service accessible over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;
- b. searching a database containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options; and
- c. determining a communications address for contacting the user in accordance with a comparison between a communications option accompanying the request and the user's preferred communications options.

146. The method according to claim 145, wherein the communications network includes at least one of a packet network and a telephone network.

147. The method according to claim 146, wherein the packet network comprises at least one of the Internet or an intranet.

148. The method according to claim 145, wherein the service is further accessible through a Web site using a Web browser.

149. The method according to claim 145, wherein the user identifier includes information representing at least one of the user's identity, the user's title, the user's occupation or personal information corresponding to the user.

150. The method according to claim 145, wherein the plurality of communications addresses includes an address for contacting the user by telephone, an address for contacting the user by e-mail, an address for contacting the user by facsimile, and a current address for making direct communications contact with the user.

151. The method according to claim 145, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by videophone.

152. The method according to claim 150, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by voice messaging.

153. The method according to claim 150, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by real-time IP messaging.

154. The method according to claim 150, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes a URL-compatible address for linking to a Web page associated with the user.

155. The method according to claim 145, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes a communications option and at least one of the time of day, the day of the week, or information representing the identity of a person attempting to contact the user.

156. The method according to claim 145, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

157. The method according to claim 145, wherein the determined communications address for contacting the user corresponds to a communications option having at least one communications property in common with the communications option accompanying the request and with the user's preferred communications options.

158. The method according to claim 145, further comprising the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options.

159. The method according to claim 158, further comprising the step of delivering the converted communication to the user.

160. The method according to claim 158, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting text portions of a facsimile message into a voice message.

161. The method according to claim 158, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting an e-mail message into a voice message.

162. The method according to claim 158, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting a voice message into a facsimile message.

163. The method according to claim 158, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting an e-mail message into a facsimile message.

164. The method according to claim 158, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting text portions of a facsimile message into an e-mail message.

165. The method according to claim 158, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting a voice message into an e-mail message.

166. The method according to claim 145, further comprising the step of after determining a communications address for contacting the user, providing over the communications network the determined communications address.

167. The method according to claim 145, further comprising the step of after determining a communications address for contacting the user, initiating a communications contact to the determined communications address.

168. The method according to claim 167, wherein the communications contact to the user is initiated without providing the communications address to a subscriber making the request.

169. The method according to claim 145, further comprising the step of receiving a message to be delivered to the determined communications address.

170. The method according to claim 169, wherein the message to be delivered comprises at least one of a voice message or a text message.

171. The method according to claim 145, further comprising the provision of a voice interface for enabling interaction with, and control and management of, the service from any available voice-compatible communication interface.

172. The method according to claim 145, wherein the step of receiving a request for a communications address for contacting the user includes the step of retrieving from a cache maintained for a subscriber information corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database.

173. The method according to claim 172, wherein the information stored in the cache maintained for a subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

174. The method according to claim 145, wherein the communications information for contacting the user is automatically updated in accordance with a change in a communications address for contacting the user.

175. The method according to claim 145, wherein the user may, subject to verification of the user's identity, update the communications information for contacting the user.

176. The method according to claim 145, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options is automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts with communication attempts from other persons.

177. The method according to claim 145, wherein the database further includes a message providing information about contacting the user.

178. The method according to claim 177, wherein the message providing information about contacting the user includes an audio message.

179. The method according to claim 177, wherein the database further includes a list identifying those persons entitled to access the message providing information about contacting the user.

180. The method according to claim 177, further comprising the step of playing the message providing information about contacting the user in response to the request for user contact information.

181. The method according to claim 145, wherein the database further includes multimedia information corresponding to the user.

182. The method according to claim 181, multimedia information corresponding to the user includes a Web page.

183. A method of operating an active user registry service accessible over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;
- b. searching a database containing communications information for contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options;
wherein the user's preferred communications options are automatically learned in accordance with how the user interacts to communications from other persons; and
- c. determining from the database a communications address for contacting the user.

184. The method according to claim 183, wherein the user identifier includes information representing at least one of the user's identity, the user's title, the user's occupation or personal information corresponding to the user.

185. The method according to claim 183, wherein the plurality of communications addresses includes an address for contacting the user by telephone, an address for contacting the user by e-mail, an address for contacting the user by facsimile, and a current address for making direct communications contact with the user.

186. The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by videophone.

187. The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by voice messaging.

188. The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes an address for contacting the user by real-time IP messaging.

189. The method according to claim 185, wherein the plurality of communications addresses further includes a URL-compatible address for linking to a Web page associated with the user.

190. The method according to claim 183, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes at least one of the time of day, the day of the week, or information representing the identity of a person attempting to contact the user.

191. The method according to claim 183, wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received over a communications link from a personal information source associated with the user.

192. The method according to claim 183, further comprising the provision of a voice interface for enabling interaction with, and control and management of, the service from any available voice-compatible communication interface.

193. The method according to claim 183, wherein the step of receiving a request for a communications address for contacting the user includes the step of retrieving from a cache maintained for a subscriber information corresponding to an entry point to communications information for contacting the user stored in the database.

194. The method according to claim 193, wherein the information stored in the cache maintained for a subscriber is updated in accordance with a pattern of communications options utilized over time by the subscriber upon access to the database.

195. A method of operating an active user registry service accessible over a communications network, comprising the steps of:

- a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;
- b. searching a database containing communications information for

contacting the user including a user identifier, a plurality of communications addresses and information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options;

wherein the information corresponding to the user's preferred communications options includes information received from a personal information source associated with the user; and

c. determining from the database a communications address for contacting the user.

196. A method of determining a communications address for contacting a user, comprising the steps of:

a. receiving a request for communications contact information corresponding to a user;

b. comparing a communications option accompanying the request with the user's preferred communications options;

c. determining whether there is a communications address for the user corresponding to a communications option having at least one communications property in common with the communications option accompanying the request and with the user's preferred communications options;

d. if there is a communications address for the user corresponding to a communications option having at least one communications property in common with the communications option accompanying the request and with the user's preferred communications options, selecting the communications address; and

e. if there is no communications address for the user corresponding to a communications option having at least one communications property in common with the communications option accompanying the request and with the user's preferred communications options, converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options.

197. The method according to claim 196, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting text portions of a facsimile message into a voice message.

198. The method according to claim 196, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting an e-mail message into a voice message.

199. The method according to claim 196, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting a voice message into a facsimile message.

200. The method according to claim 196, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting an e-mail message into a facsimile message.

201. The method according to claim 196, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting text portions of a facsimile message into an e-mail message.

202. The method according to claim 196, wherein the step of converting a communication for the user into a form receivable by the user over at least one of the user's preferred communications options includes converting a voice message into an e-mail message.

REMARKS

Entry of the Preliminary Amendment prior to consideration of the Application is respectfully requested. The Office is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 220-4200 to discuss any information concerning this application.

The Office is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 or §1.17 or to credit any overpayment to Deposition Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

Date: March 5, 2002

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RED-LINE VERSION OF THE AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

At page 1, line 2 and prior to the section entitled "Background of the Invention", please insert the following:

--This application is a continuation of Application No. 08/823, 944 filed March 25, 1997, by the same inventive entity of the instant application, and claiming the benefit of filing-date priority thereof.--

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